

**Mansfield Board of Education Meeting**  
**January 24, 2013**  
**Minutes**

**Attendees:** Mark LaPlaca, Chair, Martha Kelly, April Holinko, Holly Matthews, Katherine Paulhus, Carrie Silver-Bernstein, Randy Walikonis, Superintendent Fred Baruzzi, Board Clerk, Celeste Griffin

**Absent:** Shamim Patwa, Jay Rueckl

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by Mr. LaPlaca.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION:** Goodwin School's third and fourth graders demonstrated technology used in the classrooms.

**HEARING FOR VISITORS:** None.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Letter from JoAnn Goodwin, Chair, Mansfield Planning and Zoning Commission, regarding Mansfield Tomorrow Advisory Group. Flier from Tolland Parent Groups regarding screening of "Race to Nowhere."

**ADDITIONS TO THE PRESENT AGENDA:** None

**Goodwin School PTO:** Mrs. Adamczyk reported of the success of the PTO in the absence of the President and Vice President due to illness.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Personnel Committee: Mr. LaPlaca reported the need for an Executive Session following the meeting.

Ms. Patwa arrived at 8:03pm.

**THE PRESIDENT'S PLAN TO REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE:** The Board discussed the report and agreed to draft a letter for future discussion to be sent to Federal Legislators.

**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:**

- Windham STEM Academy: Ana Ortiz, Superintendent, Windham Public Schools, and Jeff Wihbey, Principal, Charles H. Barrows STEM Academy, reported on the school to open for the 2013-2014 school year.
- SmartBus Live: Dana Meinke, Sales Specialist, reviewed the Student Guardian bus monitoring program. MOTION by Ms. Patwa, seconded by Ms. Matthews, to authorize the Superintendent to enter into an agreement with Student Guardian System with town and school district legal review of contract language. VOTE: Ms. Silver-Bernstein, Mr. Walikonis, Ms. Matthews, Ms. Patwa, Mr. LaPlaca and Ms. Holinko in favor. Mrs. Kelly in opposition and Mrs. Paulhus in abstention.
- NAEYC Accreditation: Dr. Leclerc reported the Mansfield Public Schools' preschool program received accreditation on January 4, 2013.
- MMS School Trip Request: Mr. Nguyen reviewed the Robotics Club trip to Vex World Championships in Anaheim, California in April. MOTION by Mr. Walikonis, seconded by Ms. Silver-Bernstein to approve the school trip request. VOTE: Unanimous in favor.
- Emergency Procedures: Mr. Baruzzi reported that meetings with staff and parent organizations have occurred and the administrators and appropriate safety personnel will be reviewing District Safety Procedures and revising as necessary.
- School Climate: Mr. Baruzzi reported that the Principals are reviewing the school climate surveys with the Building School Climate Committees and developing plans as appropriate.
- School Building Project: Mr. Baruzzi reported that at its meeting on January 23, 2013 the Mansfield Town Council voted not to send a building project to the voters at this time and have requested that the Council and the school Board meet in the near future to develop a plan for needed repairs. The Board discussed preparation for this meeting to be discussed at the January 31<sup>st</sup> meeting.
- Enhancing Student Achievement: Three new projects were reviewed and will be implemented at the schools in support of this activity.
- Class Size Enrollment: The building principals reported no significant change in enrollment in the district.
- 2013-2014 Proposed Budget – Introduction and Overview: Mr. Baruzzi presented his proposed budget of \$20,941,020 representing an increase of 1.7% from the adjusted 2012-2013 budget of \$20,588,160.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

CONSENT AGENDA: MOTION by Mrs. Paulhus, seconded by Mr. Walikonis, to approve the following items for the Board of Education January 24, 2013 meeting. VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

That the Mansfield Public Schools Board of Education approves the minutes of the December 13, 2012 Board meeting.

That the Mansfield Public Schools Board of Education accepts the retirement of Jamie Lang-Rodean, grade two teacher at Goodwin School effective the end of the 2012-2013 school year.

That the Mansfield Public Schools Board of Education accepts the retirement of Norma Fisher-Doiron, Principal Southeast Elementary School effective the end of the 2012-2013 school year.

HEARING FOR VISITORS: None

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA: Electronic documents for Board meetings.

MOTION by Mrs. Paulhus, seconded by Mrs. Holinko, to move into Executive Session at 11:10pm regarding union grievance and strategy in respect to collective bargaining. The Board was joined in executive session by the Superintendent.

The Board returned to open session at 11:41pm.

MOTION by Ms. Patwa, seconded by Mr. Walikonis, that the Board of Education adopt the recommendation of the Personnel Subcommittee and authorize the Board Chair to issue the Board's decision in the pending union grievance. VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

MOTION by Ms. Silver-Bernstein, seconded by Mrs. Paulhus, to adjourn at 11:42pm. Vote was unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Celeste Griffin, Board Clerk